

Appl. No.: 09/841,713
Amdt. Dated: 04/14/2007
Off. Act. Dated: 11/14/2007

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and discussion presented herein.

1. Allowance of Claims 8-15, 17-19 and 21-25.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's determination that Claims 8-15, 17-19 and 21-25 are allowable.

2. Allowability of Claim 7, if rewritten in independent form.

The Applicant also notes with appreciation the Examiner's determination that Claim 7 would be allowable is rewritten in independent form.

The material of Claim 7 has been incorporated into independent Claim 1, therein currently amended Claim 1 provides the material of Claim 7 along with the limitations of base Claim 1.

3. Rejection of Claims 1, 4-5, 26 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Claims 1, 4-5, and 26-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Garvis (US Pat. No. 5,647,011) in view of Wilde (US Pat. No. 3,869,584) (Claims 1, 4-5), Shorte (US Pat. No. 4,538,296) (Claim 26), and Chen (US Pat. No. 6,993,140).

In order to expedite issuance of the instant application, Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the material of dependent Claim 7, deemed to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Accordingly, dependent Claims 4-5 and 26-27 should now be considered a *fortiori* allowable, in that they depend from an allowable base claim, Claim 1.

4. Extension of Time Petition.

The Applicant has enclosed a petition for a two-month extension of time to respond to the Office Action and has enclosed the appropriate petition fee.

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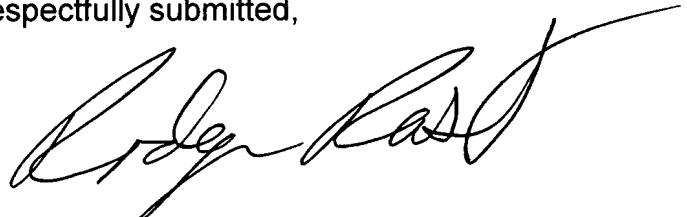
5. Conclusion.

Each of these presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance.

The Applicant respectfully requests a response/interview (email/phone) with the Examiner to clarify any issues that still exist with the allowability of these claims.

Date: April 14, 2007

Respectfully submitted,



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